EDUCATION FOR ALL التربية للجميع

全民教育 EDUCACION PARA TODOS

ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ ДЛЯ ВСЕХ

EFA 2000

EDUCATION POUR TOUS SPECIAL

FOCUS

EDUCATION FOR ALL SUMMIT

13-16 December 1993
New Delhi, India

BANGLADESH
BRAZIL
CHINA
EGYPT
INDIA
INDONESIA
MEXICO
NIGERIA
PAKISTAN

NINE GIANTS ONE GOAL

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Through an unprecedented education drive, the heads-of-state or government from Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan are expected to pledge to universalize primary education and massively reduce the illiteracy rate in their countries.

Hosted by India, and sponsored by UNESCO, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the summit represents an historic opportunity to mobilize high-level political support, as well as financial and technical resources for primary education and literacy programmes.

The summit will be preceded by a "pre-summit" 13-15 December, at which key aspects such as gender disparities, the link between population and education and the mobilization of funds will be discussed among education ministers, specialists, bankers and donors.

The pre-summit is expected to be attended by people like Egypt's First Lady, Susan Mobarak and futurologist Alvin Toffler.

If present trends continue, the total population of these countries - 2.7 billion, or half of the world's total, is expected to grow to about 3.265 billion by the year 2000. Education, especially for girls and women, is generally believed to be the key to slowing this trend. Says Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of UNFPA: "Every large-scale survey in developing countries has discovered that education of women is one of the most universal and reliable predictors both of their own fertility and of their children's health."

Extraordinary opportunity

The nine countries together account for over 70 per cent of the world's adult illiterates and more than half of its out-of-school children. UNESCO estimates that there are together some 70 million children in these countries excluded from primary education. If current trends continue, this number would jump to 83 million by the year 2000.

"The summit is an extraordinary opportunity to advance the cause of education in the nine countries," says Victor Ordoñez, head of the inter-agency summit task force at UNESCO. "Several of them have already increased their budgets for basic education in the past three years. The summit will be an opportunity to accelerate action and make a real difference."

The summit is expected to reaffirm and advance the international goals of Education for All established by the *World Conference on Education for All* (Jomtien, Thai-

The Education for All SUMMIT

What?	The Education for All Summit of Nine High Population Countries
Where?	New Delhi, India
When?	13-16 December 1993
Who?	The heads-of-state (or government) of Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan, as well as some 500 people from United Nations agencies, donor organizations, education specialists, non-governmental organizations, etc.
Host:	The Government of India.
Sponsors:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
Why?	To obtain the political commitment of the nine leaders to universalize primary education and massively reduce illiteracy, especially among women, by the year 2000.
Agenda:	A "pre-summit" on 13-15 December will feature panels on the following themes: education and society; mobilization, people's participation and decentralization; girls and women's education, population issues and women's empowerment; external and internal financial resources for EFA. The summit on 16 December will adopt a declaration supported by all nine leaders.

READEX FICHE

CATION ALL

IN A MAJOR EFFORT TO COMBAT POPULATION EXPLOSION, UNDERDEVELOPMENT, AND CHILD MORTALITY, THE LEADERS OF NINE OF THE MOST POPULATED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD WILL GATHER IN NEW DELHI, 16 DECEMBER 1993, AT THE WORLD'S FIRST EDUCATION SUMMIT.

education for all SUMMIT

land 1990) that launched a world-wide initiative to meet basic learning needs.

Top priority

The goals of the summit are (1) to commit leaders and governments of these countries to implement action plans that, while bold and ambitious, are also realistic, achievable and capable of being monitored; (2) to enable countries to compare approaches, strategies and results and ways of mobilizing resources; (3) to reenergize the commitment of the international community to the goals of Jomtien, particularly through increased donor support.

While each country will set its own targets, the summit goals will cover primary education for all children before the year 2000, and elimination of gender as well as social, ethnic, and economic disparities in education.

Top priority will be given to girls and women. The summit will consider how to remove the disparity between male and female literacy before the year 2000, an especially challenging task for some countries. In Bangladesh, for example, 52 per cent of adult males are illiterate against 78 per cent of women.

In almost every country, educated mothers have been found to have fewer and healthier children than their less educated or uneducated sisters. In Brazil, for instance, uneducated women have an average of 6.5 children each, compared to those with a secondary education who have 2.5. And according to one study of Nigerian villages, mothers' education alone was associated with 20 per cent fewer child deaths.

Most of the nine countries need to address the challenges of access, quality, drop-out, effectiveness of the education system and resource constraints. But there are huge differences between countries. China, Mexico, and Indonesia have more or less solved the problem of access, while in Pakistan, for example, only 29 per cent of children of primary-school age have a place in school.

Of those children who are enrolled, large numbers drop out or repeat classes before completion. In Brazil, for instance, only 63 per cent of children who start primary school reach second grade, and only 47 per cent make it to the fourth grade.

A huge effort will therefore be needed to educate the young and get them to stay in school. Says James P. Grant, executive director of UNICEF: "Primary education for all children is the core and cutting edge of any Education for All strategy."

A great many of those who never enrol or drop out are girls, live in rural areas, and/or belong to ethnic minority groups. And among those who do finish the primary cycle, many do not acquire the basic skills to improve their own and their families' lives.

"The quality of education provided [...] is sometimes so distressingly poor that even pupils who persist in school for several years may never achieve an enduring level of literacy," says Federico Mayor, director-general of UNESCO.

League table
LITERACY

This graph ranks the summit countries by the percentage of adults 15 years and older that are literate.

1) MEXICO	87%
2) BRAZIL	81%
3) INDONESIA	77%
4) CHINA	73%
5) INDIA	52%
6) NIGERIA	51%
7) EGYPT	48%
8) BANGLADESH	35%
9) PAKISTAN	35%

Source: Education for All: Status and Trends, 1993, UNESCO

Education versus arms

Moreover, education in most of the nine countries is centralized and bureaucracy-driven, with little direct participation of communities and families. People's energy, enthusiasm and resources are not tapped, and the conditions for mobilizing them are often not created. Also, most of the countries have been spending much less on educating their people than on meeting military bills and debt-servicing obligations, despite the fact that education is regarded to be a better guarantee of a nation's internal security and prosperity than guns and soldiers.

While it is difficult to assess the exact cost of providing Education for All before the year 2000, the additional annual cost of reaching the goal of primary education for all children in the nine countries by the year 2000 has been estimated at between US$4-5 billion. A vast amount, yes, but it is not beyond our means. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the sum is equivalent to some twenty medium-size non-nuclear submarines.

FOCUS

SUMMIT

Few of the nine countries have yet made basic education a budget priority, but if they want to achieve the goals of Education for All, they'll have to. "There is an overwhelmingly strong argument for restructuring government budgets and pouring more money into basic education," says Ordoñez. "Basic education increases economic productivity, enhances social and cultural awareness, promotes health and child survival and slows down population growth. What better case could be made for investing in education?"

The goal of achieving Education for All is more reachable than ever before. The countries are not helpless giants but possess substantial means and enormous potential.

Some, such as India, Brazil and China, are even among the most scientifically and technologically advanced nations on earth. "Advances in knowledge and technology mean that many of the most daunting challenges can be overcome," says Ordoñez. "And in recent years, many countries have built up an infrastructure and outreach capacity which, if rightly tapped, could bring good-quality education to virtually all its citizens."

But advances in technology do not mean much if there isn't a political commitment to get the job done. The summit is a unique and historic opportunity for leaders to dramatically transform the educational system in their countries. The future of these giants will not be determined by fate, but by the willingness of political leaders to act with vigour, determination and responsibility. ■

League table
NET ENROLMENT RATIO FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLING

This graph shows what proportion of primary school-age children is actually enrolled. The figures indicate each country's progress towards the goal of Universal Primary Education, but does not reflect what quality of schooling the children receive.

1) CHINA	98%
2) MEXICO	98%
3) INDONESIA	97%
4) EGYPT	91%
5) BRAZIL	89%
6) INDIA	89%
7) BANGLADESH	88%
8) NIGERIA	88%
9) PAKISTAN	28%

Source for tables: Education for All: Status and Trends, 1993, UNESCO

League table
PRIMARY EDUCATION HOLDING POWER

This graph ranks the countries by the percentage of their school children reaching the fourth grade of primary education, with and without repeating earlier grades.

1) EGYPT	99%
2) INDONESIA	89%
3) CHINA	86%
4) MEXICO	81%
5) NIGERIA	67%
6) INDIA	61%
7) PAKISTAN	59%
8) BANGLADESH	52%
9) BRAZIL	47%

Rahima, 10, daughter of a rickshaw driver, enjoys the quality education provided by Gonoshahajjo Sangstha, a national non-governmental organization in Bangladesh. Photo: Vidal.

EFA 2000

EFA 2000 is a quarterly news bulletin published by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) for the **Secretariat of the International Consultative Forum on Education for All**. The bulletin provides news on the follow-up to the World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990), at which 155 countries pledged to provide education for all –children and adults– and massively reduce illiteracy before the year 2000.

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